

CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL

FINAL MEETING NOTES

November 13, 2002

9:15 am – 4:30 pm

Channel Islands National Park, Auditorium
Ventura, CA

The following final notes summarize the November 13, 2002 meeting of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council (SAC). These meeting notes will be posted on the CINMS website at: www.cinms.nos.noaa.gov/sacmin.html. Audio tapes of SAC meetings are available from the Sanctuary office: 805-966-7107.

Attending:

GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES:

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Alternate Gary Davis

US COAST GUARD

Alternate Troy Rentz

US DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Member Alex Stone

Alternate Walter Schobel

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Alternate LT. Jorge Gross

CALIFORNIA RESOURCES AGENCY

Alternate Melissa Miller- Henson

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

Member Rebecca Roth

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

Member Dianne Meester [SAC Chair]

Alternate Jackie Campbell

COUNTY OF VENTURA

Member Lyn Krieger

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES:

TOURISM

Alternate Alex Brodie

RECREATION

Member Jim Brye

Alternate Eric Kett

BUSINESS

Member Michael Hanrahan

CONSERVATION

Member Linda Krop

Alternate Greg Helms

FISHING

Alternate2 Merit McCrea

EDUCATION

Member Craig Taylor

Alternate Kathy deWet-Oleson

RESEARCH

Member Dr. Robert Warner

PUBLIC AT-LARGE

Member Jon Clark [SAC Vice Chair]

Alternate Richard Holt

PUBLIC AT-LARGE

Member Robert Duncan

Alternate Avie Guerra

PUBLIC AT-LARGE

Member Dr. Matthew Cahn

NON-VOTING MEMBERS:

Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary

Chris Mobley, Manager

LCDR Matthew Pickett, Manager (outgoing)

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

Alternate: Sean Morton, Management Plan Coordinator

Absent:

GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES:

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES:

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Member Mark Helvey
Alternate Christina Fahy

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Member Jack Fitzgerald

US COAST GUARD

Member J. Wade Russell

MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE

Member Drew Mayerson
Alternate Fred Piltz, Ph.D.

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Member Patricia Wolf

CALIFORNIA RESOURCES AGENCY

Member Brian Baird

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

Alternate Gary Timm

COUNTY OF VENTURA

Alternate Jack Peveler

TOURISM

Member Jeanette Webber [SAC Secretary]

FISHING

Member Harry Liqournik
Alternate¹ Eric Hooper

RESEARCH

Alternate Dr. Dan Brumbaugh

PUBLIC AT-LARGE

Alternate Roberta Cordero

NON-VOTING MEMBERS:**Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary**

Bill Douros, Sanctuary Superintendent

Gulf of the Farallones & Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries

Ed Ueber, Manager

At roll call, 14 of the 20 voting seats were represented, with an additional 3 seats represented after late arrivals. There were a total of 28 SAC representatives in attendance for the day (12 members, 13 alternates, 3 non-voting). Public attendance averaged about 15 individuals.

1. Administrative Business and Announcements

Craig Taylor introduced himself as the SAC's newly appointed education seat member. Craig briefly described his background, ranging from his high school roots in Santa Barbara to his global ocean research and educational work on marine protected areas. Craig explained that he is a board member of the Wildlife Conservation Society and assists the organization with marine programs. Craig also said that he is looking forward to working with the Sanctuary Education Team (SET).

Meeting Notes

Draft meeting notes from the September 13, 2002 SAC meeting were adopted by the Council.

Manager's Report

For the manager's report (which was distributed to all at the meeting), Matt Pickett drew attention to the recent listing by the California Fish and Game Commission's recent listing of the Xantus murrelet as a state candidate species under the California Endangered Species Act.

Matt Pickett also announced the new Sanctuary vessel, the *R/V Shearwater*, was undergoing sea trials in Bellingham, WA and is expected to be delivered within the first or second week of December. Matt thanked the Channel Islands Marine Sanctuary Foundation for the successful fundraising event they held in September to support CINMS programs and outfitting the new vessel.

Incoming Sanctuary Manager Chris Mobley addressed the SAC, beginning by stating that he was very excited to be coming on board, and very passionate about the National Marine Sanctuary Program. Chris described his background, from his training in oceanography, to his years with the NOAA Corps in the late 1980s, to his ten years in Santa Rosa, CA working for the National Marine Fisheries Service. Chris talked about his California roots, including his experiences diving at the Channel Islands. Chris also discussed the importance of the Sanctuary Advisory Council, noting that this kind of model gives the public a stronger role in resource management than has ever been the case before. Chris acknowledged the SAC's hard work, and said that he hopes he can use his experience, including connections and knowledge of government operations in DC, to further the goals of the CINMS and the SAC. Chris also mentioned that as a manager he is big on team approaches, always willing to give the credit to those deserving of it, and always ready to take the heat if needed.

Council Member Announcements

Bob Warner announced that recent plans have been developing with the Department of Fish and Game to build on the SAC's initial recommendations for biological monitoring programs to support marine reserves. Bob explained that a larger group will be forming, drawing on many of the individuals names in the SAC recommendation, to advise on monitoring program development for the Channel Islands and the state's Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) process. The group would not, Bob clarified, be operating under the auspices of the SAC, but he is willing to be the SAC's link to that effort.

Sean Morton reported on progress being made on the management plan revision process at the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

Robert Duncan reported that Ed Cassano recently left the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum and will now be working with Ocean Futures. Robert also commented that new Sanctuary shipwreck exhibits are in place at the Maritime Museum.

Gary Davis reported that Tim Setnicka is now working at the National Park Service regional headquarters, and that Jack Fitzgerald will be serving as Acting Superintendent of the Channel Islands National Park until a new superintendent is in place.

Jorge Gross commented that the Pacific Fishery Management Council recently adopted a Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan. He also characterized the PFMC's Habitat Committee as "warming up" to marine reserves and possibly projecting an 18-month time line for designating reserves within the federal waters of the CINMS. Jorge also commented that the Department of Fish and Game will soon be releasing new maps of the Channel Islands marine reserves.

Kathy DeWet-Oleson announced that she will be taking a leave of absence from the SAC through February 2003 while she is working on a part time contract with the National Marine Sanctuary Program.

2. Marine Reserves

Matt Pickett announced that he is nominating Sean Hastings for the award of NOAA National Ocean Service Employee of the Year. Matt read the nomination statement to all.

Fish and Game Commission Decision

John Ugoretz with the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) announced that on October 23, 2002 the California Fish and Game Commission (FGC) voted in favor of adopting the agency's proposed project for establishing MPAs within the CINMS. John explained that the area closed in this first phase was equivalent to 19% of the 680 square nautical miles of state waters within the Sanctuary, or 132 square nautical miles of closed area.

John explained that the state's Office of Administrative Law is now working on finalizing the fish and game code, and that the marine reserves will go into effect on January 1st, 2003. John also said the FGC will soon receive a Final Statement of Reasons for Regulatory Action, which will include responses to final comments received.

John reported that the DFG will be meeting on November 18 with the CINMS and CINP to work on coordination of implementation of the reserves. He mentioned that multi-agency MOUs will be developed, and that DFG would like to keep working with the SAC on reserves implementation tasks.

John also announced that maps of the reserves are expected to be available by the end of next week, and that DFG is looking for help getting the word out throughout the community and on the water. John clarified that it will not be illegal to anchor within a marine reserve with catch on board, or to transit through a reserve with catch on board.

SAC representatives then each commented on either how their constituents are feeling about the outcome of the marine reserves process, or offered thoughts on next steps. Comments raised related to

feelings of pride and accomplishment; relief that the decision was made; a need to bring the fishermen back into the process; the importance of strong enforcement, the need for solid monitoring evaluation programs; the importance of education and outreach; respect and appreciation for the process that was used; and gratitude for all those that worked so hard throughout the process; remembering the guiding vision of Jim Donlon; and some concern that the Sanctuary still cannot be effective without firm agreements with the state on resource management authority at the Channel Islands.

Reserve Monitoring and Enforcement

Sean Hastings reported that NOAA Economist Bob Leeworthy is continuing to help in the design of socio-economic monitoring programs for the new marine reserves by planning for a two-day workshop to be held in February or March, 2003. Sean emphasized the importance of constituents participating in the monitoring workshop if success is to be assured.

Sean reported that the SAC's previous advice on development of a biological monitoring program for reserves is going to be used to soon form a task force that will be coordinated by DFG.

Federal Process – Phase 2

Sean Hastings explained that under the National Marine Sanctuary Act, NOAA intends to kick off the Phase 2 process this January. This process will evaluate options for completing the marine reserve network in remaining Sanctuary waters, as originally discussed during the MRWG process. Process details have not yet been finalized, Sean said, but CINMS will bring more information to the SAC at their next meeting.

3. Public Comments

None were provided

4. Working Group and Ad Hoc Group Progress Reports

Sanctuary Education Team (SET)

Kathy deWet-Oleson gave a presentation to the Council to provide initial recommendations from the SET on education strategies for marine reserves. Kathy handed out (to all) a summary of the SET recommendations, which identified a number of audiences that need to be informed about the new marine reserves, and corresponding ranked distribution methods for reaching each sector.

Kathy explained that the initial recommendations from the SET are designed to meet the short-term needs for raising community awareness of the reserves (phase one), and also presented ideas that are being developed for longer educational strategies (phase two).

By a unanimous voice vote, the Council adopted the recommendations of the SET and in doing so officially forwarded them to CINMS as the advice of the SAC.

Ad Hoc Group on Marine Reserves Enforcement

Robert Duncan reported that the Ad Hoc Group met jointly last month with the SET. Robert also commented that the participation of DFG has been lacking, but is crucial to the success of the effort. He added that progress can't continue until DFG joins in. Jorge Gross added that the DFG enforcement plan for marine reserves, at this point, is looking to bring a total of seven boats to the Channel Islands region. Gary Davis added that park Rangers on each island will also be assisting with supervision and enforcement.

5. SAC Retreat Report

CINMS Management Plan Specialist Sarah MacWilliams provided a presentation that recapped highlights from the SAC's October 18-19 retreat to Santa Cruz Island. Sarah described the event's purpose and goals, recreational activities, and the various discussions that took place. Numerous pictures

were shown as well. Sarah explained how the work sessions on the Draft Management Plan Action Plans were conducted, and characterized the general comments and questions staff received from attendees. Sarah also highlighted a variety of concerns and suggestions generated during a discussion that focused on improving the operation of the SAC [copies of the presentation are available upon request]

6. Management Plan Revision Process

Overview of Project Status and Process

Mike explained the current status of the staff working draft management plan, along with the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS), and the biogeographic study to be conducted by the National Centers for Coastal and Ocean Science (NCCOS). He also explained discussions CINMS staff have been engaged in with NMSP Headquarters over how to integrate the marine reserves and boundary expansion issues along with the present management plan revision process.

Matt Cahn noted that as the reserve process moves into the rulemaking venue, participants may transition into more adversarial roles within their interest groups.

Chris Mobley explained that the approach being taken at NMSP Headquarters is to simply assess the pros and cons of various paths for completing both the management plan and marine reserves. The discussion centers, he said, around what is legal, what is appropriate and what is practical.

Several SAC members questioned the logic of partitioning the management plan process so that boundary expansion issues must be dealt with in a supplemental EIS. Some comments were made that perhaps it would have been better to have adopted state and federal water reserves via a joint state/federal EIS process. Some SAC members expressed concern about the idea of merging the phase 2 marine reserves process into the CINMS management plan revision process, noting that it could bring even more delays. Related to this, some commented that combining marine reserves with the supplemental EIS on sanctuary boundaries could be too much to take all at once.

Several SAC members had questions about the NCCOS biogeographic study, and wondered what kind of data or synthesis and analysis is really missing and needed in order for the boundary expansion decision to be handled. The SAC requested that regular briefings by NCCOS staff be provided to the Council.

Action plans of the Draft Management Plan

Mike Murray explained that the strategies contained within the action plans are nearly complete and have the SAC's fingerprints on them. Mike added that the SAC now has an opportunity to comment on fine tuning the action plans. Mike summarized each strategy, along with the actions and partners associated with each.

Mike noted that Matt Brookhart has requested that the SAC representatives who volunteered for the SAC Subcommittee on Performance Measure Development (Matt Cahn, Jackie Campbell, Jon Clark, Greg Helms, Dick Holt, Dianne Meester, Rebecca Roth, and Bob Warner) consider meeting with him locally during the week of December 16-20. Mike or Matt Brookhart will send an e-mail about this.

Mike then distributed a worksheet designed to collect information on which strategies the Council felt the SAC should be listed as partners, and also to indicate the level of importance for each strategy with regard to the extent of resources that should be put into measuring performance.

Advisory Council Discussion on the Action plans of the Draft Management Plan

General comments about the Action Plans were then offered, including suggestions that the plan reflect interest in formation of a water quality working group; the importance of adding a multi-cultural education element to the plans; and consideration that the plan seems to be slanted toward discouraging use.

A discussion ensued regarding the merits of the management plan promoting or encouraging use of the Sanctuary, with a mix of comments and views expressed. Management and staff encouraged members to send in suggested language changes or text edits on this point.

7. Setting SAC Priorities for 2003

Mike Murray reviewed the status of tasks the SAC took on in 2002, noting that many have not yet been completed. The Council asked that the 2002 annual work plan be edited and updated by staff to create a potential draft plan for 2003, which the SAC can revise and adopt at the January 17th meeting.

8. SAC Officer Elections

Dr. Matthew Cahn was elected as the new Chair of the SAC. Jeanette Webber was re-elected as the SAC Secretary.

9. Future Meetings

For the January 17th meeting, a recap of agenda items of interest included the following:

- Review and consideration of a staff-drafted 2003 work plan, based on carrying over work not completed in 2002;
- Revisiting ideas raised at the SAC retreat for improvement of SAC operations;
- Providing the SAC with an update on the phase two marine reserve process as it relates to the management plan revision process;
- Providing an NCCOS presentation, including information about the biogeographic study project and the type of products to be developed;
- Consideration of forming a local steering committee to assist in the forthcoming SAC-hosted Workshop to develop socio-economic monitoring programs for marine reserves;
- Consideration of forming a water quality Working Group.

The SAC reconfirmed the following meeting schedule for 2003:

- Friday, January 17, 2003
- Friday, March 21, 2003
- Friday, May 16, 2003
- Friday, July 18, 2003
- Friday, September 19, 2003
- Friday, November 14, 2003

It was also announced that the NMSP is be convening a meeting of all SAC Chairs and Coordinators from around the nation. The meeting is scheduled for February 19-20. SAC representatives are encouraged to attend a reception on the evening of February 19, and can also attend the public meeting of the SAC Chairs on February 20.

*Meeting notes respectfully submitted by:
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